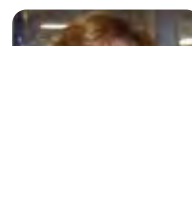
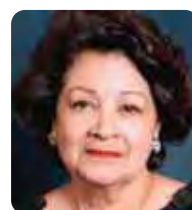
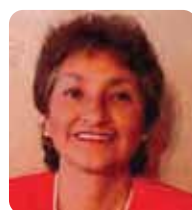
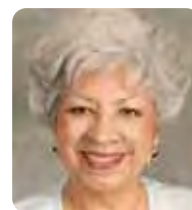


# latina achievers changing the nation



**boston**  
**lulac national**  
**womens conference**  
"latina achievers changing the nation"



**april 3-4**  
**2009**  
**hyatt hotel**

latinas exitosas cambiando la nación.  
[www.lulac.org](http://www.lulac.org)



## Office of the National Vice-President For Women



Welcome to Boston, Massachusetts! LULAC is proud to host you at our annual National Women's Conference at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hotel. Boston's Latino population is now 17%, the largest gain in recent years of any group. Our two-day conference features both national and local leaders from around the country.

Key speakers include LULAC National President Rosa Rosales, Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Judge Diana Maldonado of the Chelsea District Court, Massachusetts State Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz, Rhode Island State Representative Grace Diaz and Telemundo celebrity Ana Maria Polo of "Caso Cerrado," and many others.

This year's workshops focus on women in politics, domestic violence, mental health, financial empowerment and immigration and civil rights.

The mission of the LULAC National Women's Conference has always been to involve women from across this country to inspire them and enhance their ability to become leaders. We are very proud of the success this conference has achieved due to the commitment of the LULAC Women's Commission and our LULAC National Office.

Studies have shown that women continue to learn from being a part of the LULAC network. The conference also increases their knowledge as consumers of products offered by our corporate partners.

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary fighting for civil rights, Latinas have made tremendous strides in holding positions of influence within American society. We now have two women in top Cabinet level positions within the Obama Administration. We congratulate Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis.

I would like to thank all of our members of the Women's Commission as well as our corporate sponsors for your financial support. We could not have done it without your commitment to women.

Sincerely,

Regla González  
National Vice-President for Women



## LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICANS CITIZENS



Photo by Luis Nufio Briones

Bienvenidos a Boston LULAC family and friends!

As LULAC marks its 80<sup>th</sup> year we are excited to be celebrating in Boston for the first time.

The theme for the conference is “Latina Achievers Changing the Nation.” We are doing so in the areas of business, education, and political empowerment. Now is the time to highlight the important accomplishments of women who have progressed in their areas of expertise and have them share their experiences with the participants.

The National Women’s Commission is proud of its work in the areas of education, health care, economy and breaking down barriers.

Your participation is key as women’s purchasing power increases and your company’s support is important in our quest to continue empowering women through our educational forums.

Congratulations to all of our members of the Women’s Commission as well as our Corporate Sponsors for your support in making this year’s conference a success.

Sincerely,

Rosa Rosales  
LULAC National President



## Office of the National Vice-President for Northeast

Welcome,

As the nation's largest and oldest Hispanic Civil Rights organization, LULAC, celebrates its 80th anniversary it celebrates also its struggle on equality for women's rights.

"Latina Achievers Changing the Nation", the theme for the LULAC National Women's conference highlights the achievements of thousand of Hispanic women in education, politics and business.

As a woman, I am very proud to be part of the LULAC family and a commissioner of the LULAC National Women's commission. which is made up of extraordinary women each one an achiever by their own right.



Looking forward to see you at our 2009 LULAC National Women's conference in our beautiful city of Boston, April 3rd and 4th at the Hyatt Regency.

Best,

Toula Politis Lugo  
National V.P. for Northeast



## Office of the Massachusetts State Director



Dear LULAC members and Friends of LULAC,

Welcome to the 2009 LULAC Women's Conference in the Cradle of Liberty, the historic City of Boston, Massachusetts. On behalf of all the members of LULAC Massachusetts, I welcome you to my home and this much anticipated conference.

Our theme this year "Latina Achievers Changing the Nation" is truly something that we in LULAC Massachusetts can identify with. We strive to create leaders in the community by empowering young women to strive for their dreams by achieving an education that will open doors for them in the future. We encourage both civic and scholastic participation from our youth who we consider to be the future leaders of this country. These young women hold in their grasp both the duty and responsibility to serve and enhance a community that has fostered much of their growth.

I am proud to say that many of these young women will be joining us during the next two days in order to meet many of the LULAC members and community leaders who have cultivated change in their respective communities and who they aspire to emulate. They truly admire the work and dedication of these leaders. By participating and attending this Conference you are doing your job to help define the character of these young women. It is our hope that each participant enhances their personal ability to become leaders in their communities by acquiring a better understanding within the fields of business, education, law, and healthcare. Also, it is our hope that these leaders who have already achieved a level of success can influence others, in particular the youth of this nation, to follow in their footsteps and create their own paths to achievement and success.

As I did as a young woman and still do now, I admire and respect the many women who have made an influence and an impact in my life; particularly those within LULAC who have seen me develop into a well-rounded and successful professional. I thank you on behalf of my generation, the present generation, and future generations of Latina Achievers for all your contributions and achievements that we will be honoring in the next few days. Finally, I hope you take much from this year's conference and maybe even take home a little bit of Boston's charm and pride.

Sincerely,

Annabelle Guerra  
MA State Director



THE WHITE HOUSE

March 26, 2009



Photo by Joyce N. Boghosian

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you to the League of United Latin American Citizens' National Women's Conference and I congratulate you on your 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

LULAC's efforts to advance the economic, educational, health and civil rights of Hispanic Americans are paying huge dividends at a time when our country is facing significant economic challenges. Hispanic-owned businesses are one of the fastest growing sectors in our country and Latina-owned businesses are helping to lead that growth. Latinas are serving at unprecedented levels in leadership positions in business, education, the military, the sciences, and in communities throughout our Nation. And, your community-based outreach serves as a model for organizations that want to have a real impact on strengthening our neighborhoods.

Throughout this Nation and this conference are Latinas whose stories – whether front-page achievements or untold contributions – make up the fabric of the American narrative. Your efforts to secure a greater hold on the American dream for all Hispanic Americans will make your community and our Nation even stronger. I hope you enjoy your conference and wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

*Michelle Obama*



DEVAL L. PATRICK  
GOVERNOR

TIMOTHY P. MURRAY  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

STATE HOUSE • BOSTON, MA 02133

(617) 725-4000



April 2009

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, I send warm greetings as you gather for the League of United Latin American Citizens National Women's Conference.

Celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary, LULAC has been a leader within the Hispanic community. This weekend we celebrate the achievements of Latina women from around the country. Countless Latina women are making great impact in non-profit, private and public sectors. I congratulate those being honored.

I also commend you all for your work benefiting our communities. Your work is important and I hope you continue to make our neighborhoods a better place to live and work. Please accept my best wishes for a successful conference.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Deval Patrick". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a large loop at the beginning and a long, sweeping tail.



## THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Dear Attendees,

**I**t is an honor to be here with you. As the First Lady of Massachusetts, I want to welcome you on behalf of Governor Deval Patrick and myself to our beautiful state. We are excited to be hosting LULAC's first national Women's Conference in Boston .



As a mother and active member of the community there are many exciting things to do here in Boston and I hope you take back with you many cherished memories of Boston and the LULAC Women's Conference. It is these experiences that will change your life as it has changed mine.

A lawyer, teacher, mother, and active member of the community, I know how important these conferences are for the women who are looking to serve their country. Throughout my life and professional career, I have dedicated myself to various communities, and currently serve on the Boards of the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and also served as a volunteer member of the Commonwealth's Foster Care Review Unit and Overseer at Children's Hospital Boston, among others. I know first hand the need for these types of professional conferences that will help enrich you and make you flourish. There is a need for the future leaders to excel and many of you are here now.

I wish you the very best during your stay here and that you go back to your communities with a renewed sense of leadership, devotion and purpose.

Sincerely,

First Lady Diane Patrick





CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
THOMAS M. MENINO



February 20, 2009

Dear Friends:

On behalf of the city of Boston, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome as you gather to celebrate LULAC's National Women's Conference.

Enriched by thousands of Latino families, our beautiful neighborhoods are the beneficiaries of the Hispanic culture, and it makes the City of Boston the ideal location for your conference.

Your commitment to engage "*la mujer Latina*" throughout the United States of America, by raising her consciousness and motivation to become the new leaders of present and future generations, makes LULAC's mission an extraordinary expression of dedication to the future of Latino women and families.

During your stay in Boston, I encourage you to take advantage of America's first city and all it has to offer. When you explore our friendly historic neighborhoods, our many cultural attractions, our parks and open spaces, and our international cuisine, you will find that our city's charm lies not only within its old-world atmosphere and its contemporary flavor, but also with the excitement, warmth, and diversity of its people.

I hope you enjoy your visit to Boston, and I wish you a challenging, productive and successful conference.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino  
Mayor of Boston

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## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

# ANA MARIA POLO

Host “Caso Cerrado con la Dra. Ana María Polo”



Ana María Polo, born in Havana, Cuba, migrated with her parents to Miami, Florida. She obtained her elementary and high school diploma in Puerto Rico, where she also participated in several musical performances like “Godspell” and “Showboat”. As a young woman, she was a “Jubilee’s chorus” member and was invited by Pope Paulo VI to participate in the celebration of the Year of the Saints in 1975, singing in the San Prieto Basilica. Ana Maria graduated from Florida International University, with a Political Sciences baccalaureate and was admitted at the University of Miami, Law School where she received her law degree. Since 1989, Dr. Polo exercises her profession in Miami-Dade County, State of Florida.

Ana Maria joined the CMQ Angel Martin radial show in 1991. She also worked as the family lawyer expert for the Maria Laria TV show, El Show de Cristina, Despierta America, Noticiero Univision, and America en Vivo. She also wrote family matter articles for the electronic magazine Obsidiana.com.

In April 2, 2001, Telemundo launched Sala de Parejas hosted by Polo, a show where participants found an opportunity to discuss all kind of marital problems and at the end of the show a solution was provided for them.

In January 2005, Polo entered into a new season on Telemundo with “Caso Cerrado con la Dra. Ana Maria

Polo”, a new spin with a dynamic and renovated format and the objective of resolving not only couples dilemmas, but also many more of the most scandalous and heated battles typically seen in a court. The program took a different approach where Polo gives an in-depth look behind the truth before making the ultimate decision to solve the disputes. During this season, “Caso Cerrado” examined the evidence, determine the best plan of action and make a firm and final decision.

In April 2006, Ana Maria Polo celebrated her fifth anniversary on Telemundo network with a new season of “Caso Cerrado con la Dra. Ana María Polo” (3pm/2c), where the audience can witness the new innovative period of the only court program in national Hispanic television with a new focus, environment, a greater number of studio audience and promising justice with human warmth. With her natural dynamism, charisma and style, Dr. Polo intervenes in the legal battles that are regularly seen in a normal courtroom with the objective to solve the problems in a livelier, human program filled with emotions.

Dr. Ana Maria Polo, winner of a 2004 Inte Award, is a professional attorney that besides her role as a professional lawyer, hosts the only national court show on US Spanish-language television entitled “Caso Cerrado con la Dra. Ana María Polo”, which airs Mondays thru Fridays on Telemundo.



# **80<sup>th</sup> LULAC** National Convention & Exposition

**San Juan, Puerto Rico | July 13 – July 18, 2009**

## Reaching New Frontiers

*Expanding the Latino Agenda*



**“The most exciting event in the Hispanic community”**

*For more information visit our website at:*  
**[WWW.LULAC.ORG](http://WWW.LULAC.ORG)**



*League of United Latin American Citizens*

## GUEST SPEAKER

### Hon. Sonia Chang-Díaz MA. State Senator



Community organizer, democratic activist and former teacher Sonia Chang-Díaz, is one of Massachusetts' youngest state representatives and the first Hispanic/Latino woman elected to serve in the Massachusetts State Senate. Sonia was raised on the idea that leadership, at its heart, is about service. It is a value deeply rooted in her family's long tradition of public service. A single parent, her mother raised Sonia and her sister while dedicating her career to those most forgotten in our society: from adults with mental illness, to foster children in need of loving families, to at-risk toddlers and infants in Dorchester. Her father, an immigrant to the United States from Costa Rica, was our country's first Latin American astronaut and is a dedicated leader in the Latin-American community. Her sister is a teacher. And her grandfather has been recognized as one of the country's most committed rural doctors.

It's in her family tradition that Sonia has dedicated her career to making a difference in her community through public service:

- As an urban public school teacher in the Lynn and Boston school systems, Sonia learned first-hand the challenges facing our public school students, teachers, and parents and the role our state government can play in improving our educational system.
- As Senior Legislative Aide to former Sen. Cheryl Jacques, Sonia gained invaluable inside-the-State House experience and public policy expertise.
- As a key political adviser at the Barbara Lee Family Office, Sonia worked nationally to increase women's leadership in the American political system.
- And most recently, as the Director of Outreach at the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, a non-partisan fiscal policy think tank, Sonia has worked to build coalitions and educate and empower Massachusetts residents around key budget questions, from closing corporate loopholes to making our state's budget process more transparent.

## GUEST SPEAKER

### Hon. Diana Maldonado Judge



Judge Diana L. Maldonado is an Associate Justice of the Chelsea District Court, which is a general jurisdiction court handling both civil and criminal matters. Judge Maldonado is a 1985 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and clerked on the Massachusetts Appeals court for Justice Frederick L. Brown. Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Maldonado had an extensive career in public service and criminal litigation. Judge Maldonado worked in both the trial and appellate divisions of the Massachusetts state public defenders office (the Committee for Public Council Services).

In October 1990, Judge Maldonado returned to her native New York City, where she spent three years at the Neighborhood Defenders Service in Harlem. She returned in January 1993, where she was the first Hispanic attorney to work at the Massachusetts Federal Public Defenders Office. She was appointed to the bench ten years ago, on January 28, 1999.

Judge Maldonado distinguished herself in the area of substance abuse and alternative sentencing by establishing and presiding over Chelsea District Court's Drug Court session, which provides an alternative sentence of intensive therapeutic supervision for defendants suffering from substance abuse.

Judge Maldonado has been a lecturer and panelist at various local, national and international forums, including Chile, China and Cuba. Her presentations have covered varied topics, including cultural sensitivity and access to the courts, substance abuse, drug Courts, trial tactics, alternative dispute resolutions and domestic violence. Finally, Judge Maldonado was a 2007 Gaston Institute Women of Substance honoree.

Judge Maldonado was recently appointed to be the First Justice at Chelsea District Court effective after she returns from maternity leave.



## GUEST SPEAKER

### Liliana A. Gil



A consummate young executive, thought leader and rising star, Liliana Gil has been recognized for her passion and leadership in support of the dynamic and fast growing Multicultural and Hispanic markets in the U.S. Gil's solid career with Johnson & Johnson as the Director of Worldwide

Marketing Services has provided her with a platform to influence the marketplace in the creation of innovative strategic relationships with agencies, the community and corporations alike.

One of Gil's most significant accomplishments was the invention and leadership of "Proyecto MAS," which focused on increasing visibility of the growing Multicultural U.S. segment for the Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies. Brands that Gil has directly influenced include: Topamax, Levaquin, Tylenol, Lactaid, Splenda, Aveeno, Johnson's Baby, among others. Through this effort, J&J also completed its first companywide Hispanic Agency selection in December 2007.

Despite her professional success, it is Gil's contributions to the community and the industry that provide her the greatest satisfaction. Her legacy lies in founding and supporting groups such as MAHO Designs (Makers of Hope: [www.mahodesigns.com](http://www.mahodesigns.com)), which helps artisans in vulnerable areas of Colombia; and HOLA, the Hispanic Organization for Leadership & Achievement, a mentoring and social responsibility arm of J&J. HOLA has grown into an active and highly influential organization with 34 chapters worldwide and over 1,200 members.

Gil is a recognized speaker and industry contributor who has been featured in countless publications and industry events. She has also contributed to diversity studies with the Harvard Business Review as part of a private sector task force entitled, "The Hidden Brain Drain: Women and Minorities as Unrealized Assets."

Prior to J&J, she held various positions at Huguley Healthcare Systems and Walt Disney World's Celebration Health.

Originally from Colombia, Lili holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Finance from Southwestern Adventist University. She has also completed foreign studies at Deakin University in Melbourne Australia, post-graduate studies at Rollins College (Crummer Graduate School of Business) and holds an MBA from the University of Colorado.

## GUEST SPEAKER

### Selma Sierra



Selma Sierra – BLM Utah State Director

Selma Sierra took over as State Director of the Bureau of Land Management in Utah in November 2006. Selma came to Utah after having served as the Chief of Staff at the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, D.C. Prior to her appointment as Chief of Staff, Sierra had

been BLM's Assistant Director for Communications since 2003.

Sierra has held positions in government at the city, state and federal levels. She worked for the City of Las Cruces and in State Government in New Mexico. She came to the Department of the Interior in 1989 as Assistant to the Secretary for External Affairs. She became Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Management at the Department in 1991 and served in that position until January 1993. In her capacity as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Management, Sierra developed a Human Resources Management Strategy for the Department of the Interior which focused on the expansion of training, employee development and advancement for Interior employees. Sierra worked on Capitol Hill for the House Ways and Means Committee and on the congressional staff for a U.S. Congressman from 1995 to 2001. She was then appointed Assistant Director at the U.S. Department of Commerce and served in that capacity until 2003, when she returned to the Interior Department to direct the BLM communications office.

As State Director for the Bureau of Land Management in Utah, Sierra is carrying out a vision that focuses on resource management planning efforts that balance appropriate access and use with environmental stewardship; enhancing economic opportunity, energy security, land health and productivity of Public Lands; managing for excellence that results in more efficient and effective operations for BLM statewide.

In 2006, Sierra was the recipient of a Manuel Lujan, Jr. Champions Award for outstanding work in carrying out the department's mission in areas impacting Hispanic communities. A native of La Union, New Mexico, Sierra received Bachelor of Arts degrees in journalism and government in 1979 from New Mexico State University.





Proud to Support the  
LULAC Women's Conference



# Workshop and Plenary Sessions Presenters

## Domestic Violence and Mental Health Workshop

### Moderator:



**Annabelle Guerra** was born and raised in Boston, Massachusetts. She received a Bachelor of Science in Political Science (Cum Laude) with a Concentration in Public Policy and Administration and Minor in Spanish from Northeastern University in 2005. Since graduating, Ms. Guerra

has become a voice for victims of crime as a Victim Witness Advocate for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office which encompasses not only the entire City of Boston but also the Cities of Chelsea, Revere, and Winthrop Massachusetts. She began her victim advocacy in West Roxbury and Roxbury District Court and currently works in the Family Protection, Sexual Assault, and Elders and Persons with Disability Units which are specialized units that deal with the most vulnerable of victims and help secure Superior Court prosecution. Ms. Guerra has been able to serve hundreds of victims of violence in their homes and communities with her advocacy and experience within the criminal system. She is currently the Massachusetts LULAC State Director and has held several positions in the LULAC Youth and also now as an adult member since she joined LULAC at the age of 13. Ms. Guerra is currently a 2nd year law student at Massachusetts School of Law.

### Panelists:



**Dr. Lisa Medrano** is a bilingual, bicultural licensed clinical psychologist with 20 years of clinical, consulting and managerial experience. She holds a long standing academic appointment to Harvard Medical School and other affiliated hospitals.

She is the author of several publications and has been a member of the board of several Boston-based community and not-for-profit organizations. She is the president of Medrano Associates, LLC, providing consultation to national and international corporations and organizations in the area of crisis management and preservation of human capital.

In her clinical work she has specialized in the treatment and prevention of traumatic stress. She provides clinical consultation to individuals and organizations in the treatment of acute and long term psychological trauma and development of resiliency. She has been actively involved in hurricanes Katrina and Andrew, the tsunami recovery efforts in Sri Lanka and the September 11 terrorist attack in New York.

She has held several directorship and leadership positions in healthcare and community organizations at major Harvard Medical School teaching hospitals. Most recently she was the administrative director of a full service medical facility for Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

Dr. Medrano has over 20 years of experience appearing as television and radio guest speaker on Boston stations. She is the host and co-producer of "Poder Latino en Accion" BNN-TV Boston, MA. For four years she was the Family and Psychology Editor, WBZ-TV, Channel 4, Program "Centro," Brighton, MA. She has been a presenter at over 100 local, national and international conferences.



**Silvia Karina Rentería Hernández, PhD:** Escritora, conferencista y psicóloga, dedicada a temas de desarrollo humano y superación personal, ha impartido innumerables cursos de capacitación empresarial en México, España

y Estados Unidos.

Ha escrito varios libros de superación y motivación, además de temas contra la violencia intrafamiliar.

Acreditada por la Universidad Anahuac de México en Psicología Clínica. Catedrática de Psicología en la Universidad Regional del Norte en Cd. Juárez, Mex. Certificada por Thames Valley University Psychology en Londres, en las áreas de Psicología del Comportamiento Laboral y Comunicación en las Relaciones Interpersonales.



**Katherine Seoane.** Born in Cuba, Ms Seoane came to the United States at age eleven. She has a Masters in Criminal Justice. A former case manager for the Boston Public Health Commission and an addiction specialist at the

Dimock Community Health Center, Ms Seoane also worked at the Attorney General's office as an investigator before assuming her current position as a Probation Officer in the Cambridge District Court where she has been for the last ten years. Married with two children, Ms. Seoane is active in the Latino community.



**Judge Diana Maldonado,** Judge Diana L. Maldonado is an Associate Justice of the Chelsea District Court, which is a general jurisdiction court handling both civil and criminal matters. Judge Maldonado is a 1985 graduate

of Northeastern University School of Law and clerked on the Massachusetts Appeals court for Justice Frederick L. Brown. Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Maldonado had an extensive career in public service and criminal litigation. Judge Maldonado worked in both the trial and appellate divisions of the Massachusetts state public defenders office (the Committee for Public Council Services).

In October 1990, Judge Maldonado returned to her native New York City, where she spent three years at the Neighborhood Defenders Service in Harlem. She returned in January 1993, where she was the first Hispanic attorney to work at the Massachusetts Federal Public Defenders Office. She was appointed to the bench ten years ago, on January 28, 1999.



**Veronica E. DeDosantos,** former Assistant District Attorney for the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office of Massachusetts. Ms. DeDosantos is currently assigned to West Roxbury District Court. Her previous assignment was with

the Chelsea District Court where she worked for three years. As an Assistant District Attorney Ms. DeDosantos represents the Commonwealth in all facets of prosecution from arraignment through jury trial and sentencing. She is primarily responsible for the prosecution of the more serious felony cases that remain within the district court level.

Prior to becoming an Assistant District Attorney, Ms. DeDosantos was a student prosecutor within the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office of Massachusetts. She was also a former paralegal at Rubin & Rudman where she was assigned to a managing partner within the litigation department.

Ms. DeDosantos received her J.D. from New England School of Law in 2005. She served as the vice-president of the Minority Student Association and was a member of the association throughout her stay at NESL. She is a 2000 graduate of Suffolk University where she received her B.A. with double majors in Parelgal Studies and Hispanic Studies.



**Josiane Martínez** works at La Alianza Hispana as the Latino Program Coordinator at Emerge, the first abuser education program in the world to stop domestic violence. As the Latino Program Coordinator, Josiane facilitates

groups with men who have been abusive towards their intimate partners. Besides helping to change men on an individual level, during her time at Emerge, she has provided training certification for group leaders in batterer intervention work around the world. She has assisted the planning and implementation of Emerge-modeled batterer education programs in Monterrey, Mexico, San Juan, Puerto Rico and in Massachusetts. She is also an advocate for Latino victims of domestic violence by promoting a community coordinated response model and recommending strategic alliances and partnerships with Latino organizations, the local shelter movement, criminal justice agencies, and human service programs

Josiane is a journalist at heart. She continues to be a freelance reporter and photographer for New England's most prominent Latino newspapers such as Siglo21, El Planeta and for Magazines like Entre Amigos and Health & Family.

Prior to moving to Boston, Josiane was the director and screenwriter for an acclaimed documentary on Vieques, an island off of Puerto Rico, which was a military bombing site that is being linked to a major public health crisis today. While in Toa Alta City, Puerto Rico, She was the

*Continued on page on page 17*

# Program Agenda

## “Latina Achievers-Changing the Nation”

### THURSDAY, APRIL 2

12:15 pm to 1:00 pm	LULAC Tyson Food Distribution, Boston Food Bank
2:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Conference Committee Work Group Meeting
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Boston City Council Reception/LULAC National Health Commission hearing

### FRIDAY, APRIL 3

12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Silent Auction
12:00 pm to 4:00 pm	Early Registration
4:00 pm	Exhibits Set-up
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Opening Reception at Hotel
	Mistress of ceremony: State Director Annabelle Guerra

### SATURDAY, APRIL 4

7:30 am to 8:30 am	Registration
7:30 am to 8:30 am	Breakfast and Recognition of Community Leaders
	Mistress of Ceremonies: Ana Carolina Pereira, Univision New England
	» Gladys Aquino-Gaines » Mercedes Barnet » Olga Dummontt » Graciela Sanchez
	» Milagros Dominguez » Janet Collazo » Milagros Marte » Margarita Muniz
	» Maria Rivera » Hilda Ramirez » Sara Suarez » Flor Maria Vasallo
7:30 am to 4:00 pm	Exhibits and Silent Charity Auction
8:30 am to 8:45 am	Conference Launching and Official Welcome
8:50 am to 10:20 am	Workshop: Domestic Violence and Mental Health
	Moderator: Annabelle Guerra
10:30 am to 11:40 am	Workshop: Financial Empowerment
	Moderator: Gina Sierra-Nova
11:50 am to 12:30 pm	Silent Charity Auction
12:30 pm to 2:00 pm	Women's Recognition Luncheon and Salute to Corporate Sponsors
	Mistress of Ceremony: Yadires Nova Salcedo, CBS
	Key Note Speaker: Dra. Ana Maria Polo, Telemundo
	Guest Speaker: Judge, Diana Maldonado
	Guest Speaker: State Senator (MA), Sonia Chang-Diaz
	Guest Speaker: Liliana Gil, Johnson & Johnson
2:10 pm to 3:10 pm	Workshop: 21st. Century and Women in Politics
	Moderator: Giovanna Negretti
3:20 pm to 4:20 pm	Closing Workshop: Immigration and Civil Rights
	Moderator: Magalis Troncoso
4:40 pm to 6:30 pm	Macy's Spring Shopping and Fashion Reception
7:00 pm to 1:00 am	Taste of Boston Reception, Food, Music and Dance - Edwin Pabon & Orchestra
	Mistress of Ceremony: Sara Suarez Univision New England News Director

# Workshop and Plenary Sessions Presenters

Continued from page 15

Communications & Media Director for Mayor Rafael Lopez Gonzalez. As a student, she was the Founder, Director, and Producer of "Sin Tregua", The University of Puerto Rico's Student Radio Program. Josiane has a BA in Political Science, a BA in Public Communications and is currently working on her Masters in Public Administration.

## Financial Empowerment Workshop

### Moderator:



**Gina Sierra Nova** is the President of GSN Mortgage and Real Estate Agency, Inc. Located in West Roxbury, MA, with over 16 years experience in the finance and mortgage industry, Gina believes in building relationships and giving back to the community. Gina has been involved in establishing first time home buying seminars and taught the classes for various companies. She also taught Spanish for Global Child in the Canton schools. Won the 2006 Business Women of the year award. Member of the National Association of Mortgage Brokers, the Massachusetts Mortgage Brokers and the Better Business Bureau to mention a few. Gina sits on the board of director of the Better Business Bureau. Gina Sierra-Nova is the producer and host of her television talk show "Fuerza Financiera 411" (Financial Power).

### Panelists:



**Rosalin Acosta** serves as Executive Vice President and Managing Director of Private Wealth Management for Sovereign Bank. The Division provides comprehensive financial solutions including Wealth Management, Private Banking and Trust services to affluent individuals as well as institutional clients. She leads a dynamic team of professionals throughout the New England and Mid-Atlantic states dedicated to delivering these solutions with the highest standards of

fiduciary care, integrity and excellence.

Prior to joining Private Wealth Management, Rosalin was the Director of the Government Banking Division. The team delivered customized banking solutions to local, city and state governments and agencies throughout the Sovereign Footprint. This multi-billion dollar division increased its market share and quadrupled in size under Ms. Acosta's leadership. Rosalin joined Sovereign Bank in June 2000 after the Fleet/BankBoston merger. She was the Regional Sales Director for the Business Banking market segment within Global Cash Management. In that role, she was responsible for the sale of cash management services to small businesses in both New England and the Mid-Atlantic states.

In addition to her banking experience, Ms. Acosta currently serves on the Board of Anna Jacques Hospital, the Board of The New England Council, the Board of Advisors for the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA) and the Special Olympics of Massachusetts. She was recently appointed as Vice Chair of the North Shore Chamber of Commerce and will Chair that Board in 2010. In addition, Rosalin is Past Chair of the Board for Children's Friend in Salem, MA. She was appointed by former Massachusetts Speaker of the House, Thomas Finneran to the Healthcare Disparities Commission. In addition, she is on the Board of Appeals of the State Office of Minority and Women Business Assistance (SOMWBA) Board of Appeals. Rosalin is also actively involved in the Diversity Advisory Council for Sovereign Bank.

Rosalin was born in Cuba and earned her BA from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. Her interests include traveling, running and politics. Rosalin lives in Amesbury, MA with her five children.



**Lisa Gonzalez Welch** has been employed by the U.S. Small Business Administration Massachusetts District Office for 20+ years.

Ms. Welch is a Business Development Specialist responsible for managing the Northeast part of the state and the Women's Business Ownership Representative for

Massachusetts. Ms. Welch delivers SBA's financing, business development and counseling programs to prospective and aspiring entrepreneurs. Duties include working closely with community organizations, developing programs and workshop, meeting one on one with clients and being the liaison between the small business entrepreneur and our SBA resource partners/programs.



**Sol Carbonell** was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina. As Associate, National Priorities for Consumer Action, a national non-profit organization based in San Francisco, California, Carbonell advocates for all consumers and develops strategic alliances and partnerships. She researches general consumer issues, trends and scams. She has trained thousands of non-profit organizations and government agencies from across the

country on banking, credit, telecommunications, privacy and other financial literacy issues. Carbonell also creates and edits web content, publications and educational materials distributed throughout Consumer Action's national network of 10,000 community-based agencies.

Carbonell studied Social Communications at the University of Buenos Aires and has obtained a degree in Communication Arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

She is a board member of the Friends of the Financial Education Center, the Wisconsin Women Business Initiative Corporation South Central Advisory Council and the Wisconsin Bureau of Consumer Protection Advisory Council.

Carbonell was a 2008 Fellow of the National Hispana Leadership Institute Executive Training Program, which took place at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the Center for Creative Leadership, among others.



**Yvonne Garcia, MBA**, is Managing Director for Liberty Mutual's Partnership Programs in the Affinity Marketing department. In this role, Yvonne is responsible for the development and implementation of segmentation and marketing strategies for personal markets. In addition, Yvonne focuses on securing partnerships with companies and associations to implement progressive marketing initiatives and manages complex accounts to promote

Liberty Mutual's products and services through alternative strategies.

As part of her activities in the community, Yvonne teaches undergraduate marketing and business management at Northeastern University in Boston, MA and is the National Vice President of the Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting (ALPFA.) ALPFA is a national organization comprised of over 8500 members. Prior to becoming the National Vice President, Yvonne served as the Boston Chapter President from 2006-2008. In her current role as National Vice President, Yvonne helps drive the strategic direction for the organization, including membership acquisition, programming and branding and marketing efforts and has a deep passion for the Women of ALPFA program in particular. Yvonne also serves on Governor Patrick's Latino-American Advisory Commission Board and on the Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investments Board (MOITI).

Yvonne holds an MBA from Boston University in Finance and Marketing and a BA from SUNY Albany and La Sorbonne in Paris, France where she lived for over a year studying Economics and Culture. She is also a graduate of the Partnership's Fellows Program Class of 2008. Yvonne is fluent in Spanish and French and lives in Massachusetts with her husband and two young children. She is from the Dominican Republic and was raised in Queens, New York.

Continued on page 18



# Workshop and Plenary Sessions Presenters

Continued from page 17

## 21st Century and Women in Politics

### Moderator:



**Giovanna Negretti**, is the founding Executive Director of ¿Oiste? (Translation: Have You Heard?), the first and only statewide Latino political organization in Massachusetts. ¿Oiste? is a membership organization with a mission to advance the political, social and economic standing of Latinos and Latinas in the state. ¿Oiste? offers programs in leadership development, civic education, campaign training and advocacy.

Giovanna's entire work experience has been focused on political engagement, advocacy and leadership development. Born and raised in Puerto Rico, Giovanna arrived to Massachusetts in 1992. She began her local political work serving as a legislative aide to State Senator Dianne Wilkerson and Senior Advisor to the Joint Committee on Insurance. Simultaneously, she served as President of the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Congress for Puerto Rican Rights, an organization which advocates for civil rights of Puerto Ricans in the United States while promoting independence for Puerto Rico. Giovanna has served as a strategy consultant to several local and national campaigns including Howard Dean for President (2004) and Deval Patrick for Governor (2007).

### Panelists:



**Hon. Sonia Chang-Diaz, State Senator (MA)** Community organizer, democratic activist and former teacher Sonia Chang-Diaz, is one of Massachusetts' youngest state representatives and the first Hispanic/Latino woman elected to serve in the Massachusetts State Senate. Sonia was raised on the idea that leadership, at its heart, is about service. It is a value deeply rooted in her family's long tradition of public service. A single parent, her mother raised Sonia and her sister while dedicating

her career to those most forgotten in our society: from adults with mental illness, to foster children in need of loving families, to at-risk toddlers and infants in Dorchester. Her father, an immigrant to the United States from Costa Rica, was our country's first Latin American astronaut and is a dedicated leader in the Latin-American community.



**Hon. Grace Diaz, State Rep (RI)** (D-District 11, Providence) was born on February 21, 1957.

Secretary, House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare; Secretary, House Committee on Rules.

Rep. Diaz graduated from Springfield College; BA in Human Services from Springfield College.

Rep. Diaz was elected on November 2, 2004; Permanent Legislative Commission on Child Care; Appointed Vice-Chairperson of the RI Democratic Party, 2008.

GENERAL BACKGROUND: Center for Women and Enterprise; Ready to Learn Providence; Elmwood Foundation; National Association of Latino Elected Officials; Women in Government; National Hispanic State Legislators; Minority Caucus Legislator.



**Lily Mendez-Morgan** is Deputy Secretary for Interagency Management and Reform at the Executive Office of Transportation. In this role, Lily is responsible for advancing the Mobility Compact an effort to change and transform the transportation bureaucracy by identifying new ways to cross-fund or use resources across agency and authority lines.

Until recently Lily was the Senior Appointments and Civic Engagement Director for Governor Patrick, she was responsible for supporting the Governor in meeting his major obligation to appoint qualified people to a large number of important leadership roles throughout state government. These appointments range from personnel in the executive offices to members of over 700 boards and commissions. She was also responsible for driving and coordinating Civic Engagement efforts, one of the Governors top three priorities.

Prior to joining the Patrick/Murray administration, she was the Executive

Director of the Access Strategies Fund a private foundation based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. For seven years she led the foundation's grant making efforts to effectively invest \$3 million in community based and statewide organizations dedicated to increasing the voter participation of communities of color within Massachusetts.

In addition to her years working in philanthropy she worked for four years as a legislative aide in the MA House of Representative eventually becoming the Chief of Staff to the House Chair of the joint committee on Housing and Urban Development.

Lily graduated in 1993 with a BS in Communications from Emerson College and received her MPA from the McCormack Institute at UMass Boston.



**Elizabeth Cardona**, is the Director of Governor Patrick's Western Massachusetts office in Springfield. Her responsibilities include constituent service, promoting civic engagement, and liaison to all citizens residing in Western MA who need help with state government.

Prior to her appointment to the Governor's Office, Elizabeth held a position as the English Language Learning (ELL) Program Education Specialist for Documentation

Compliance Data, Parent & Community Involvement for the Springfield Public Schools. Her desire to understand the role of government has inspired her to engage in community action at many levels. As an intern for Westfield State Representative Donald F. Humason, she learned the skills of providing excellent constituent services. In 2005, she participated in the city of Springfield Policing Program sponsored by the Springfield Police Department where she received an insight into Public Safety. Recently, Cardona was elected as a 2008 delegate to the Democratic National Convention. Also, in 2006 she was elected as a delegate to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention.

Seeking greater leadership development, Cardona became a 2007 graduate of the Leadership Institute sponsored by the Affiliated Chamber of Commerce of Greater Springfield and Western New England College. In that same year Mayor Domenic Sarno appointed Elizabeth to serve on his Education Transition Committee. In 2006, she participated in the Commonwealth Seminar Leadership Training in Boston, MA. Elizabeth also served on the boards of the Springfield Cultural Council, and was the Regional Chair for ¿Oiste? The Massachusetts Latino Political Organization. Elizabeth writes a Latino-Perspective column in the African-American Point of View Community Newspaper.

Elizabeth Cardona is a graduate of Springfield College (B.A.) where she majored in American Studies, Concentration Social issues; she has taken graduate courses in Public Administration, at Westfield State College. Cardona resides in the North End of Springfield with her two sons.



**Maria Carrasco** has been a community advocate and activist for decades in our City of Lynn. Her life experience has given her the insights of understanding the lives of children, youth and working families and the challenges they face.

Maria came to Lynn in the early 80's where she enrolled in English Classes at the North Shore Community College.

She immediately began pursuing the American Dream.

She was determined to learn the English language and ultimately gain the basic tools that would allow her to pursue a higher education.

Maria is a teacher, having taught for over 15 years, and now for the last 20 years has served as a Case Manager in the North Shore Career Center. Her education background has been helpful for her to understand the hundreds of people that walk into the doors of the Career Center everyday. She works with people who need better education, training, better wages and a clear Career Path.

She wants to create policy that will benefit our Students in better preparing them for the Workforce.

Maria has an Associates Degree in Substance Abuse, and is a Certified Drug

Continued on page 21



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# Workshops

*Continued from page 18*

and Alcohol Abuse Counselor.

Maria is a proud graduate of North Shore Community College.

She has been a member of the Lynn Hispanic Scholarship for over 10 years, the last 4 serving as its President. The Lynn Hispanic Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to high school students based on academic performance and financial need. Maria brings a grassroots perspective to her leadership and her life experiences has given her a more in-depth understanding of the needs of working families, by having worked with children and adults of diverse backgrounds.

## Immigration and Civil Rights

### Moderator:

**Magalis Troncoso Lama** is originally from the Dominican Republic. She came to the United States in 1994 holding a Bachelor Degree in Journalism, since 1994 she has been working as a community activist at different levels. She has a long record in developing leadership trainings for Latina women and strong record in organizing around immigration issues and housing. Actually, she is the Director of the Dominican Development Center, and Director of Organizing for the Boston Tenant Coalition, a non-profit organization dedicated to advocate for affordable housing. 1996 she graduated from the Community College of Public Services, Massachusetts, University, and last year she got her Master Degree in Management Business Administration from Phoenix University. She is a volunteer for LULAC at a national & local level, and is seating in different board of directors.

### Panelists:

**Rocio Sáenz** immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico. In 1988, she became an organizer for SEIU's Justice for Janitors, where she led a successful campaign to organize janitors in Los Angeles. She moved to Boston and led several thousand Boston janitors on a month-long strike that ended with a historic settlement with the support from the media, clergy, politicians and community groups. In 2003, Sáenz was elected President of SEIU Local 615.

Today, she is helping property service workers to unity, win a voice at work, and build stronger communities in Boston and around the country.


Sáenz continues to promote legalization, rights on the job, family reunification, civic participation within the immigrant communities.

**Eva A. Millona** is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA.) She has been with

*Continued On page 23*

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# Congratulations to our Honorees



**Dra. Ana María Polo**, graduated from Florida International University, with a Political Sciences baccalaureate and was admitted at the University of Miami, Law School where she received her law degree. Since 1989, Dr. Polo exercises her profession in Miami-Dade County, State of Florida. Ana Maria joined the CMQ Angel Martin radial show in 1991. She also worked as the family lawyer expert for the Maria Laria TV show, El Show de Cristina, Despierta America, Noticiero Univision, and America en Vivo. She also wrote family matter articles for the electronic magazine Obsidiana.com. In April 2, 2001, Telemundo launched Sala de Parejas hosted by Polo, a show where participants found an opportunity to discuss all kind of marital problems and at the end of the show a solution was provided for them.

In January 2005, Polo entered into a new season on Telemundo with “Caso Cerrado con la Dra. Ana Maria Polo”,

Dr. Ana Maria Polo, winner of a 2004 Inte Award, is a professional attorney that besides her role as a professional lawyer, hosts the only national court show on US Spanish-language television entitled “Caso Cerrado con la Dra. Ana María Polo”, which airs Mondays thru Fridays on Telemundo.



**Hon. Sonia Chang-Diaz**, State Senator: Community organizer, democratic activist and former teacher Sonia Chang-Diaz, is one of Massachusetts’ youngest state representatives and the first Hispanic/Latino woman elected to serve in the Massachusetts State Senate. Sonia was raised on the idea that leadership, at its heart, is about service. It is a value deeply rooted in her family’s long tradition of public service. A single parent, her mother raised Sonia and her sister while dedicating her career to those most forgotten in our society: from adults with mental illness, to foster children in need of loving families, to at-risk toddlers and infants in Dorchester. Her father, an immigrant to the United States from Costa Rica, was our country’s first Latin American astronaut and is a dedicated leader in the Latin-American community. Her sister is a teacher. And her grandfather has been recognized as one of the country’s most committed rural doctors.

As the Director of Outreach at the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center, a non-partisan fiscal policy think tank, Sonia has worked to build coalitions and educate and empower Massachusetts residents around key budget questions, from closing corporate loopholes to making our state’s budget process more transparent.



**Judge Diana L. Maldonado** is an Associate Justice of the Chelsea District Court, which is a general jurisdiction court handling both civil and criminal matters. Judge Maldonado is a 1985 graduate of Northeastern University School of Law and clerked on the Massachusetts Appeals court for Justice Frederick L. Brown. Prior to her judicial appointment, Judge Maldonado had an extensive career in public service and criminal litigation. Judge Maldonado worked in both the trial and appellate divisions of the Massachusetts state public defenders office (the Committee for Public Council Services). In October 1990, Judge Maldonado returned to her native New York City, where she spent three years at the Neighborhood Defenders Service in Harlem. She returned in January 1993, where she was the first Hispanic attorney to work at the Massachusetts Federal Public Defenders Office. She was appointed to the bench ten years ago, on January 28, 1999. Judge Maldonado distinguished herself in the area of substance abuse and alternative sentencing by establishing and presiding over Chelsea District Court’s Drug Court session, which provides an alternative sentence of intensive therapeutic supervision for defendants suffering from substance abuse. Judge Maldonado has been a lecturer and panelist at various local, national and international forums, including Chile, China and Cuba. Her presentations have covered varied topics, including cultural sensitivity and access to the courts, substance abuse, drug Courts, trial tactics, alternative dispute resolutions and domestic violence. Finally, Judge Maldonado was a 2007 Gaston Institute Women of Substance honoree.

Judge Maldonado was recently appointed to be the First Justice at Chelsea District Court effective after she returns from maternity leave.



# Workshops

*Continued from page 21*

the organization for nine years as the Director of Policy and Advocacy and focused on providing analyses of federal and state legislation on immigration/naturalization issues, and also on reviewing and analyzing policy changes that affect immigrant communities eligible for immigration benefits.

Prior to joining MIRA she has directed the resettlement program in Central Massachusetts. In her native Albania she practiced civil and criminal law. From 1989-1992 Eva served as a judge in Tirana's District Court.

She is currently the co-chair of the Governor's Advisory Council on Refugees and Immigrants. Eva is a graduate of Clark University and Tirana University, School of Law.

**Julie Santos** is a human rights activist with over 20 years of service throughout North and South America. Currently she is the Midwest Commissioner for LULAC's National Immigrant Affairs Commission where she leads emergency intervention for immigration cases for 10 states. Ms. Santos advocates for the basic human rights of the undocumented throughout the continent. Ms. Santos is the President of LULAC Council #5273 for the past 2 years and has volunteered with LULAC of Cicero for the past 4 years.

Her education is grounded in experience and her integrity to the human condition. In addition, she has received her associate degree in music and art theory for children from Saint Augustine College. She has taken courses at Olive Harvey College and Harold Washington College and is working toward her bachelor's degree.



**Melixza González** has over ten years experience working with diverse immigrant and refugee communities both as program coordinator and union organizer. Currently, as Program Coordinator at the Massachusetts Office

for Refugees and Immigrants (MORI), Ms. González oversees Social Adjustment Services projects implemented by the Mutual Assistance Association (MAA) coalition of ten ethnic refugee grassroots organizations. Those include youth, elder, interpreting and translation services; post resettlement programs and ethnic community projects. In the past, she volunteered with SEIU and MIRA on coordinating citizenship drives for the Ya es hora ¡Ciudadanía! campaign. She earned her B.A. in Political Science with minors in Sociology and Social Justice from Simmons College.

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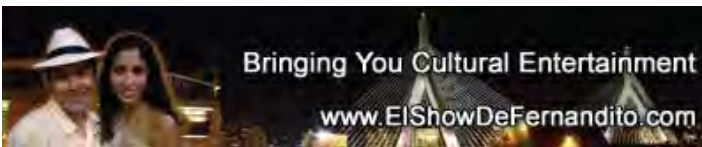
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**Yadires Nova-Salcedo** is the host and producer of "Centro," a special news segment that airs on WBZ-TV Saturdays 7:00-8:00AM. "Centro" examines issues of importance to the Latino community including education, politics, current events and entertainment.

Nova-Salcedo joined WBZ-TV in February 1996. She began her television career at WCVB-TV in Boston while still a student in middle school. Her numerous and varied roles throughout her tenure at WCVB included working as a production assistant on "Good Day" in 1990 and as an on-air spokesperson for Hispanic audiences for the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.



After graduating from Emerson College in Boston, Nova-Salcedo joined WUNI-TV in Needham, Massachusetts, an affiliate of the Spanish language television network Univision, where she was the news director, producer, editor and lead anchor from 1993 to 1995.

In addition to her current position at WBZ-TV, Nova-Salcedo is the Executive Producer of "Encuentro Latino," a weekly half-hour Spanish language program that airs Fridays at 6:00 pm on Telemundo. She also performs voice-overs for various companies and does other on and off-air production work. She is on the Board of Governors of the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Television Academy (NATAS) and is a member of the Latino Professional Network as well as the New England Ad Club. Nova-Salcedo plays an active role in the Latino community by speaking at schools and 20 emceeding charitable events throughout New England.

Nova-Salcedo was born in the Dominican Republic and was raised in the Greater Boston area. She graduated from Emerson College in Boston in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in broadcast journalism. She currently lives in Canton with her husband, daughter and son.

WBZ-TV is part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.



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